

One debate, not much focused on, has occurred in our ally and good friend, Turkey. That nation, which has lost over 30,000 of its citizens due to terrorist attacks, and which has suffered great hardship as a result of their support for our policy of economic sanctions against Iraq and others in the Middle East, has nonetheless conducted a vigorous public debate about what kind of democracy should flourish in Turkey. That debate has ended with a series of constitutional reforms, reforms that the State Department says "embodies the values that the international coalition is defending."

These reforms are broad ranging. In some cases, they expressly limit the power of the state to stifle freedom of expression, or to pry into the private lives of citizens, even those who might be suspected of criminal behavior. Others enshrine individual rights to gather, to protest or to form political parties. Still others aim for a more inclusive society by allowing use of languages other than Turkish. A group of the reforms seek to place an economic floor of support below the citizens in order to help assure opportunities for economic betterment. Finally, a group of reforms seek to streamline government and make it more responsive to the citizenry.

More than 30 constitutional reforms were adopted. Once implemented, they should go a long way toward erasing any opposition to Turkey's entry into the European Union.

It is also important to note that these reforms have been made in a Moslem nation. Turkey has always believed it important to protect the secular nature of its society, often at the risk of being criticized from within and without. Turkey's reforms, indeed its impetus to reform, is living proof that democracy and Islam are compatible.

Mr. Speaker, there are two other things about these reforms that are remarkable. First, Turkey moved boldly on many fronts to examine past practices and seems willing to make large changes to enshrine democracy. Second, despite economic pressures, political pressures, and the exigencies of the current war against terrorists, it never wavered in its pursuit of a democratic ideal. Turkey, and the entire community of democracies, should feel justly proud of what has been accomplished to date.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO HILDAGARD
(CHIEF) ALEXANDER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember an honorable and distinguished man who proudly served his nation for twenty years in the United States Army. It is with profound sadness that I now rise to honor the life and memory of Hildagard (Chief) Alexander.

Chief Alexander has witnessed some of the most frightening scenes in American war history. The Chief enlisted in the Army in 1942 and was soon in the thick of battle landing on Omaha Beach in Normandy. Chief Alexander

went on to serve in the Korean War before being discharged in 1962. It is my privilege to acknowledge Chief Alexander for the sacrifices he made so future generations can enjoy the freedoms and liberties that shape the American way of life. Furthermore, I wish to honor Chief for his role as a community leader in Colorado's Western Slope. Perhaps others best remember him as the children's representative for the Shriner's Hospital. He dedicated much of his time toward bringing joy and happiness into the lives of children. Chief was a proud man whom many had deep respect for. We will miss him greatly.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Alexander will be especially missed by his wife, Margaret, his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. As family and friends mourn his passing, Chief's compassion will shine through the hearts of those closest to him. I would like to extend my deepest sympathy and warmest regards to his family during this time of remembrance. Chief Alexander will surely be missed.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE D. TABLACK

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened to hear of the passing of a George D. Tablack.

Mr. Tablack was a lifelong resident and a well-respected leader of the Mahoning Valley. He was a Korean War Veteran, a steelworker at Youngstown Sheet and Tube and later an accountant with the Ohio Department of Taxation.

Mr. Tablack served in the Ohio House of Representatives from May 1970 until 1978. In 1979, he was appointed to the Ohio Environmental Review Board by then Governor James A. Rhodes and also sworn in as Sheriff until 1981. He later went on to pursue a successful career as a lobbyist and political consultant until 1995, when he became the Mayor of Campbell.

I would like to take this opportunity to remember Mr. Tablack for his outstanding accomplishments while serving as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives. He, along with then Ohio Senator Harry Meshel, will be regarded as two of the greatest lawmakers in Ohio's history.

I send my deepest regrets and sympathy to his wife and to his family. May God bless them.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF MT. ZION MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 30, 2001

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in East St. Louis, Illinois.

From the beginnings of holding prayer meetings at the home of Mother Jennie Thomas, Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church began.

As the prayer meetings grew, a mission was begun and larger facilities became necessary. Mother Thomas, along with Charlie Green and Belle Aikens, obtained a building site at 10th and Cook Streets in East St. Louis. On April 4, 1901, Mt. Zion was organized with the Rev. Allen Aikens as its first pastor, Brothers Woodard, Sandy Sherrod and William Easterly as Deacons; Brothers W. Jones and Prince as Trustees and W. Belle as Secretary. The membership grew under Rev. Aikens' leadership.

As the congregation grew, a larger place of worship was required. Though their resources were limited, the congregation was able to purchase land at 13th and Tudor. Construction on the new church started soon thereafter. Mt. Zion met in the basement of the building until it was completely built.

In 1919, Rev. BJ Smith was the pastor and under his leadership, a sanctuary was added and overall construction became complete. Following Rev. Smith, Rev. Lemon Johnson and Rev. JJ Olive came to serve as church pastors from 1931 to 1935. Under Rev. Olive, a baptismal pool was added to the church.

Following this period in the church's early growth, the Rev. B Haney became pastor, soon followed in 1947 by the Revs. Ephraim Thomas and James Clayborne. In 1947, Rev. WB Rouse became pastor at Mt. Zion. During his pastoral duties, membership of the church greatly increased. The church building became enlarged in 1951 and again in 1955. The sanctuary was expanded, classrooms were added and an organ and church furnishings were acquired.

At this time a parsonage was also added to the Church holdings at 919 Bond Avenue. In 1964, the Illinois Department of Transportation needed easements to assist in the construction of the Poplar Street Bridge, the church then purchased additional property at 24th and Bond Avenues in East St. Louis which became the church's present location.

In 1966, the Rev. C Cedric Claiborne was received as the new pastor of Mt. Zion. Under his tenure, the new church was constructed at a cost of \$450,000 and the first worship service was held there in 1968. In 1972, however an explosion damaged the eastern wall of the church. A makeshift cover was used to protect the building up until 1974 when the cornerstone was laid for the new wall.

Activities initiated by the Rev. Claiborne include city-wide graduate services of Metro-East graduates and a Sunday evening broadcast via WESL. The church then employed a full-time church cemetery and a church publicity Director. In 1975, Rev. Rouse took over pastorship of Mt. Zion under his leadership a mortgage burning ceremony was held in 1979.

Between the years 1977-2001, several pieces of property were acquired, including a parking lot directly located across from the church, the church office, ground adjacent to the office building, the Jewish temple, Sunday school complex and an area east of that facility. In addition to expanding their land holdings, vehicles were secured over the years to help transport parishioners to the church. In 1976, two 60 passenger buses were purchased, in 1986, a utility van and two trucks